

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:

a substantially rigid, planar plate configured to be secured by an individual to a portable die cutting apparatus configured to be transported by the individual;
at least one cutting edge protruding from a surface of said substantially planar plate a distance of about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch.

2. (Currently amended) The die of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate, said at least one ejection element being configured to immediately force a sheet of material from a location laterally adjacent to the at least one cutting edge upon removal or pressure from the die.

3. (Original) The die of claim 2, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least one compressible, resilient member.

4. (Original) The die of claim 3, wherein said at least one compressible, resilient member comprises a foam.

5. (Currently amended) The die of claim 4₂, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.

6. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate and said at least one cutting edge comprise the same material.

7. (Original) The die of claim 6, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially planar plate.

8. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

9. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises steel.

10. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein said at least one cutting edge comprises steel.

11. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.

12. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein, in combination, a thickness of said substantially planar plate and said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said substantially planar plate are about 0.03 inch.

13. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.

14. (Original) The die of claim 13, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

15. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.

16. (Original) The die of claim 15, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

17. (Original) The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

18. (Currently amended) A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:

a portable, substantially rigid, planar plate configured to be completely supported by a planar surface of a portable press;

at least one cutting edge protruding a distance of about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch from a surface of said substantially planar plate and formed from the same material as said substantially planar plate.

19. (Currently amended) The die of claim 18, further comprising:

at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate, said at least one ejection element being configured to immediately force a sheet of material from a location laterally adjacent to the at least one cutting edge upon removal or pressure from the die.

20. (Original) The die of claim 19, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least one compressible, resilient member.

21. (Original) The die of claim 20, wherein said at least one compressible, resilient member comprises a foam.

22. (Original) The die of claim 19, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.

23. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

24. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate and said at least one cutting edge comprise steel.

25. (Original) The die of claim 24, wherein said steel comprises spring steel.

26. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate a distance that is about the same or greater than a thickness of the sheet of material

27. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially planar plate.

28. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.

29. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein, in combination, a thickness of said substantially planar plate and said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said substantially planar plate are about 0.03 inch.

30. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.

31. (Original) The die of claim 30, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

32. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.

33. (Original) The die of claim 32, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

34. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

35. (Original) The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate is configured to be secured to a portable die cutting apparatus.

36. (New) A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:
a substantially planar plate having a thickness and edges that are configured for handling by an individual;
at least one cutting edge protruding from a surface of said substantially planar plate a distance of about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch.

37. (New) The die of claim 36, further comprising:
at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate, said at least one ejection element being configured to immediately force a sheet of material from a location laterally adjacent to the at least one cutting edge upon removal or pressure from the die.

38. (New) The die of claim 37, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least one compressible, resilient member.

39. (New) The die of claim 37, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.

40. (New) The die of claim 36, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially planar plate.

41. (New) The die of claim 36, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.

42. (New) The die of claim 36, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.

43. (New) The die of claim 42, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

44. (New) The die of claim 36, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.

45. (New) The die of claim 44, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

46. (New) The die of claim 36, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

47. (New) The die of claim 36, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

48. (New) A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:
a portable, substantially rigid, substantially planar plate;
at least one cutting edge protruding from a surface of said substantially planar plate.

49. (New) The die of claim 48, further comprising:
at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate, said at least one ejection element being configured to immediately force a sheet of material from a location laterally adjacent to the at least one cutting edge upon removal or pressure from the die.

50. (New) The die of claim 49, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least one compressible, resilient member.

51. (New) The die of claim 49, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.

52. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially planar plate.

53. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.

54. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate a distance of about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch.

55. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.

56. (New) The die of claim 55, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

57. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.

58. (New) The die of claim 57, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

59. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

60. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

61. (New) The die of claim 48, wherein all regions of a back side of said portable, substantially rigid, substantially planar plate located opposite said at least one cutting edge are configured to be concurrently and completely supported by a substantially planar surface of a portable die cutting apparatus as pressure is simultaneously applied to all of said at least one cutting edge.

62. (New) A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:
a substantially planar plate including a back side configured to be supported by a substantially planar die supporting surface of a portable press and having a thickness maintain its

substantial planarity when not supported by said substantially planar die supporting apparatus; and

a cutting edge protruding from a front side of said substantially planar die supporting surface, said cutting edge being configured cut through the sheet of material as pressure is applied to said back side of said substantially planar plate.

63. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein said cutting edge is configured to cut through the sheet of material as said cutting edge is forced against a substantially rigid support.

64. (New) The die of claim 63, wherein said cutting edge is configured to cut through the sheet of material as said cutting edge is forced against a support formed from a material that is softer than the material from which the cutting edge is formed.

65. (New) The die of claim 62, further comprising:
at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate, said at least one ejection element being configured to immediately force a sheet of material from a location laterally adjacent to the at least one cutting edge upon removal or pressure from the die.

66. (New) The die of claim 65, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least one compressible, resilient member.

67. (New) The die of claim 65, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.

68. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially planar plate.

69. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.

70. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate a distance of about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch.

71. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.

72. (New) The die of claim 71, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

73. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.

74. (New) The die of claim 73, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

75. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

76. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

77. (New) The die of claim 62, wherein all regions of a back side of said portable, substantially rigid, substantially planar plate located opposite said at least one cutting edge are configured to be concurrently and completely supported by a substantially planar surface of a portable die cutting apparatus.